



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Recreation Commission Minutes 9-13-2011

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, September 13, 2011
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, September 13, 2011.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Don Vitters, Shirley Canniff, Jen Rothenberg and Jim Robillard. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included: Paul Carroll, Andrew Leonard, Bill Larson, Adam Glick, Gene London and Tino Bonanno.

Approval of Minutes

It was decided to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2011 meeting at the next meeting so members can review them.

Thorndike OLRA Final Approval

Approval was received by both Conservation Commission and Animal Rescue League. Andrew Leonard stated that he is waiting for utility information. Mr. Leonard proposes that an alternate be provided which would include the watering for spickets to operate off of the irrigation system – he feels the water line is too far away. The schedule will be tight to complete this fall.

Recommendation was made to shorten the bid period. Possible bidders include Sacca, Heimlich and Green Acres. Question regarding elements was brought up. Mr. Leonard stated that no wood has been specified or will be accepted – all recycled plastic. Ms. Rothenberg was concerned with vandalism during construction. Mr. Leonard stated that a temporary fence will be provided with a port-a-potty inside the fence for construction use.

Mr. Robillard motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 4-0.

Rain Garden Proposal for Spy Pond

A detailed planting plan was provided to the Commission as requested at the previous meeting. Commitment was received by the Garden Club to take over the maintenance with the DPW to backup.

Ms. Canniff motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 4-0.

Buck Field Renovation Proposal

Paul Carroll discussed the condition of Buck Field. He states that it is in desperate need of upgrading. Paul stated that youth baseball would like Buck Field to be their showcase field. The existing conditions of the field are deplorable. The fencing is in awful shape. Tino from Bonano Construction and Paul Carroll would like to partner with the Town to make a first class facility. They would like to replace fence for safety reasons, install a new irrigation system to improve drainage, modern backstop, dugouts to be on outside of the fence and install a new storage unit.

Mr. Carroll talked about a possible “wish list” which would include a second field on Hills Hill, concessions and a bathroom. Ms. Mayer stated that we do have the skating rink with bathrooms and concession stand.

Mr. Connelly stated that the next step would be to provide details on the design phase, scope of work, drawings and specifications for the Commission to review and to present to the public. Mr. Carroll said he would provide the Commission with that information.

Ms. Rothenberg asked about the financial process. Mr. Connelly stated that youth baseball could either donate the funds to the Town and then it would go through the normal bidding process or donate the final project back to the Town. Mr. Connelly stated the either way the Board of Selectmen would have to approve the gift.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 4-0.

Capital Improvement Project Update

Robbins Farm Slide – Mr. Connelly met with the contractor who will install the slide. This contractor feels very comfortable with the project. Mr. Connelly is in the process of getting a price for an extended warranty (4 years). Mr. Connelly stated that the slide will be granite in color and it will take approximately two to three weeks for the slide to come in. Site prep can be completed in two weeks, however, the rubberized asphalt around the slide needs to be installed on a warm day (55 degrees or above). Mr. Connelly hopes it will be complete by late Fall.

Wellington Tennis Courts – Mr. Connelly stated that they are on schedule for fencing by the end of the week and the project complete by early October. Mr. Connelly explained that there was a hold up with Nstar. There have been no complaints or issues from the neighbors.

Mr. Connelly discussed the Capital Plan. Mr. Connelly discussed including Florence Avenue Playground for renovation in FY2013. This location has a high volume of use on a daily basis.

For FY2014, Mr. Connelly has listed Hibbert Playground for renovation and North Union’s spray pool and basketball court for renovation.

The Commission agrees with these priorities and also discussed the longer term needs for work at the Reservoir Beach and Robbins Farm fields.

Off leash Implementation (Article 36) Monthly Review

Mr. Connelly received and reviewed correspondence from Gene London, Adam Glick, Dan Pine, Ellen Reed and Robin Varghese.

Mr. London spoke and is asking for the off leash time to start at 8:15 AM in lieu of 8:30 AM. Mr. Glick is requesting that morning times be changed as well and would like to see the hours adjusted to align with the school calendar.

Mr. Pine would like to see some signs with the dog rules and potential fines posted at the Bishop Field.

A question was brought up about what the current fees are for off-leash violation. Mr. Connelly will follow up with Town Counsel to get this information.

Mr. Connelly feels overall the program has been successful. Mr. Connelly stated that the program has been in effect for one full year, and as discussed previously, the Commission will hold a public meeting to review it. The public meeting will be scheduled

for the Fall and will have a town-wide focus.

Special Requests

Ultimate Boot Camp is looking to use Robbins in the morning from 6:00 to 7:00 AM during the week. Off leash should not be a problem. The Commission discussed and agreed that Mr. Connelly should recommend another location.

The group that installed the rain garden at Spy Pond would like to know if it would be possible to remove the cobblestones that run from the steps from the bike path to the main park path be used around the edges of the rain garden. The Commission decided not to support this action.

Rink and Recreation Update

Mr. Connelly stated that he has 18 to 20 foursomes for the Golf Tournament to be held on Monday, September 26, 2011 at Hillview Country Club.

Mr. Connelly stated that the rink opened up earlier than ever. Public skates have been ongoing as of August 15th. Three weeks of camps were sold out.

Mr. Connelly stated that the summer programs were up by 100. The Reservoir had a bad start with the weather not cooperating. Fall registrations are doing well. Humidifier in rink is working much better.

Committee Updates:

Portable Restrooms – Dave's Septic is emptying Thorndike twice a week now. Anna Whitten said CDBG will not approve funding for handicapped restrooms beginning next year. Ms. Mayer asked Mr. Connelly to talk to Mr. Jones and the Disability Commission to see if alternative funding or grant opportunities exist to help with the costs.

Other Business

None

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters, and approved 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation